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Aboriginal Affairs

Minister's message to commemorate National Aboriginal Day (99/06/21)

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EDITOR'S NOTE - The following is the text of a message from Brad Green, minister responsible for aboriginal affairs, on the occasion of National Aboriginal Day, June, 21, 1999:

In 1996, the Governor General of Canada proclaimed June 21st National Aboriginal Day as an occasion to celebrate the historical and contemporary contributions of aboriginal peoples to Canada and to recognize their distinctive cultures. June 21 was chosen in part because it is the summer solstice, a day with special significance to many aboriginal cultures in Canada.

The Mi'kmaq and Maliseet have called New Brunswick home for thousands of years. Although our province has changed tremendously since the days of the first contact between Europeans and the aboriginal peoples of this continent, the Mi'kmaq and Maliseet remain a vibrant part of the New Brunswick community.

As the newly appointed minister responsible for aboriginal affairs, I look forward to working with the aboriginal people of New Brunswick. I encourage all New Brunswickers to learn more about the aboriginal peoples who have helped to shape our country and our province and who will continue to help shape our future.

99/06/21

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